CLAIMS

[c1]   1.   A method for managing traffic channel use in a wireless communication system, comprising:

establishing at least first and second communication connections in at least a first wireless communication device;

establishing respective first and second idle periods for the first and second connections; and

releasing a traffic channel associated with the first and second connections when both idle periods expire.

[c2]   2.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising resetting an idle period when a transmission or reception passes through the respective connection.

[c3]   3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one idle period is set to a default value.

[c4]   4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one idle period is defined by the associated connection or application.

[c5]   5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first idle period is not equal to the second idle period.

[c6]   6.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the connections are socket connections.

[c7]   7.   A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least a first application running in a socket mode; and

at least a second application running in a socket mode, the applications potentially requiring use of a common wireless traffic channel, the traffic channel being selectively allowed to go dormant in the absence of transmissions over the traffic channel.

[c8]   8.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the traffic channel is released when it goes dormant.

[c9]   9. The system of Claim 7, wherein each socket mode is associated with a respective idle period, and the traffic channel goes dormant upon the expiration of at least one idle period.

[c10]   10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the traffic channel goes dormant upon the expiration of both idle periods.

[c11]   11. The system of Claim 10, wherein an idle period is reset when a transmission or reception passes through the respective socket.

[c12]   12. The system of Claim 11, wherein at least one idle period is set to a default value.

[c13]   13. The system of Claim 11, wherein at least one idle period is defined by the associated application.

[c14]   14. The system of Claim 11, wherein the idle periods are not equal to each other.

[c15]   15. The system of Claim 7, wherein the applications run on a wireless communication device.

[c16]   16. A computer program product, comprising:
   means for associating at least a first idle period with a first connection;
   means for associating at least a second idle period with a second connection, a wireless traffic channel being establishable to both connections; and
   means for releasing the traffic channel when the idle periods expire.

[c17]   17. The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein the connections are socket connections or packet connections.

[c18]   18. The computer program product of Claim 17, further comprising means for resetting an idle period when a transmission or reception passes through the respective socket.

[c19]   19.   The computer program product of Claim 18, comprising means for setting at least one idle period to a default value.

[c20]   20.   The computer program product of Claim 18, wherein the first idle period is not equal to the second idle period.

[c21]   21.   The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein the traffic channel is a CDMA traffic channel.

[c22]   22.   A method for managing a traffic channel associated with a wireless communication device and plural connections selected from the group of connections including socket connections and packet connections, the method including:

enabling a traffic channel associated with plural applications to be released only when all applications associated with the traffic channel do not require the traffic channel.